

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015076
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ETHIOPIA'S TROUBLES STIR SAUDI CONCERN

A SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBASSY JIDDA THAT HIS GOVERNMENT VIEWS ADDIS ABABA'S CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH INCREASING CONCERN. ALTHOUGH THE SAG SUPPORTS ERITREAN ASPIRATIONS, IT IS WORRIED A FRAGMENTED ETHIOPIA MIGHT PERMIT RADICALISM IN A STRATEGICALLY VITAL AREA. THE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THE ERITREAN POPULAR LIBERATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 015076

FRONT NO LONGER RECEIVES SAUDI AID. INSTEAD, THE SAUDIS NOW GIVE MAJOR BACKING TO THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, WHICH THEY HOPE WILL BE MORE WILLING TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES WITH RIVAL FACTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 614, 1/23.)

2. DENMARK: CHAMBER DISSOLVED, GENERAL ELECTIONS SET

EMBASSY COPENHAGEN REPORTS THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN DISSOLVED THE CHAMBER ON JANUARY 22 AND SET GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 15. JORGENSEN'S DECISION, NOT UNEXPECTED, STEMMED FROM THE LACK OF CENTER-RIGHT SUPPORT FOR HIS ECONOMIC PACKAGE.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE STATE OF THE DANISH ECONOMY WILL BE THE MAIN ISSUE OF THE CAMPAIGN AND THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL PROBABLY BE RETURNED TO OFFICE. US INTERESTS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, ALTHOUGH DANISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE F-16 OFFER WILL BE DELAYED AND MOVEMENT TOWARD A NEW BILATERAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL LATE FEBRUARY. (CONFIDENTIAL) COPENHAGEN 420, 1/23.)

3. KABUL LOOKS AHEAD

EMBASSY KABUL ASSESSES AFGHAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S EVENTS, AND CONCLUDES THAT:

--AFGHAN/PAKISTANI DETENTE HAS ARRIVED, AND SHORT-TERM REGIONAL STABILITY APPEARS ASSURED.

--THE SOVIETS SEEM DISQUIETED ABOUT THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF THIS RAPPROCHEMENT, AND MAY RESORT TO MEDDLING WITH THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT SHOULD THE NEW RELATIONSHIP APPEAR TO AUGUR GREATER MUSLIM SOLIDARITY.

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PAGE 03 STATE 015076

--RELATIONS WITH THE US ARE EXCELLENT, AND DAOUD WILL NO DOUBT WANT TO DEVELOP CORDIAL TIES SIMILAR TO THOSE HIS REGIME ENJOYED WITH THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

--RESPONSIBLE NON-ALIGNMENT REMAINS THE KEYSTONE OF AFGHAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND KABUL'S ASSIDUOUS ATTENTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT HAS CREATED A RESERVOIR OF SUPPORT FROM WHICH IT WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW AT WILL. (CONFIDENTIAL) KABUL 537, 1/23.)
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